

Medicare’s Annual Wellness Visit

The Annual Wellness Visit (AWV) allows health professionals and members to review medical conditions together and plan for needed health services in the upcoming year. The goal of the AWV is to engage the patient in being part of their own health care plan through collaborative communication with their provider. This helps promote early detection and disease prevention.

AWV Advantages

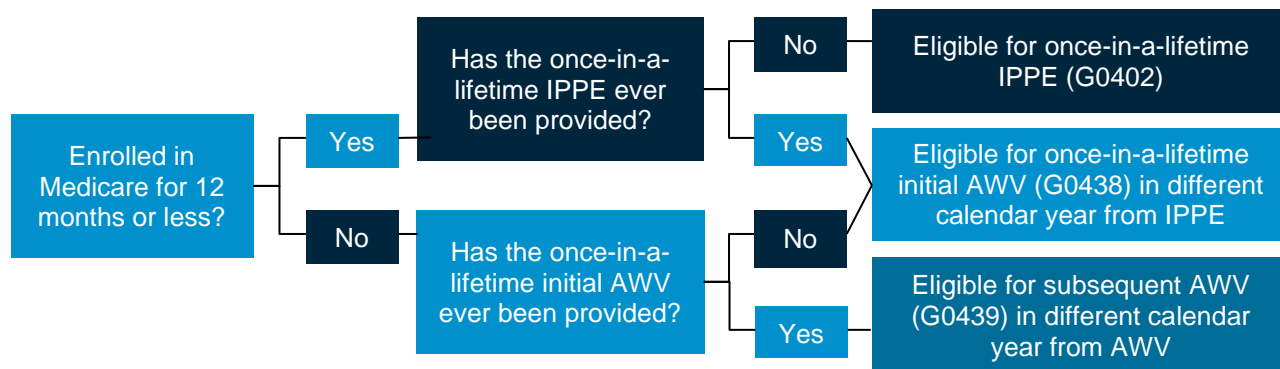
Completing an AWV provides benefits to both the provider and the patient.

Physician	Patient
Provides an extra service to patients. Allows for closer ties to patients on their health. Meets many requirements (e.g., risk adjustment and ordering preventative testing for quality measures). Assesses the current treatment plan for chronic conditions without focusing on trying to diagnose new issues.	Completely covered by Medicare part B; no deductible, coinsurance, or copayments apply. Includes a personalized plan of preventative services and when to receive them. Centers around coaching patients in reducing potential health risks. Promotes prevention rather than intervention.

Types of AWVs and Their HCPCS Codes

There are three types of AWVs depending on whether someone is new to Medicare and whether the patient has already had one. The AWV is used to develop or update a Personalized Prevention Plan (PPP) and perform a Health Risk Assessment (HRA).

Initial Preventive Physical Examination G0402	Initial Annual Wellness Visit G0438	Annual Wellness Visit G0439
Review of medical and social health history and preventive services education. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Medicare patients within 12 months of first Part B coverage period • Patients pay nothing (if provider accepts assignment) • Performed face-to-face 	Visit to develop or update a Personalized Prevention Plan (PPP) and perform a Health Risk Assessment (HRA). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covered once with Florida Blue Medicare • Patients pay nothing (if provider accepts assignment) • Performed face-to-face or telehealth 	Visit to update and monitor patient healthcare needs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covered each calendar year following the Initial Annual Wellness Visit • Patients pay nothing (if provider accepts assignment) • Performed face-to-face or telehealth



AWV Documentation

As part of the review, providers should:

- Assess and document all active chronic conditions that coexist at the time of the visit and require or affect patient care or management.
- Record the modality if an AWW is completed via telehealth. For Risk Adjustment purposes, AWW via telehealth must be conducted using audio and video simultaneously.
 - Review accuracy of Place of Service.
 - Modifier 95 will identify telehealth services using video through the end of CY 2023. Do not use modifier 95 for telehealth visits without the video component.
- Once the provider signs the AWW, review the documentation for completion and accuracy by:
 - Validating the HRA form is completed.
 - Substantiating the documentation supports the diagnoses the provider documented.
 - Confirming diagnosis codes are in correct sequencing order.
 - Confirming the CPT and/or HCPCS codes are accurate.

Annual Wellness Visit Summary

Florida Blue Medicare covers one AWW per calendar year. For the Medicare Advantage population, the AWW is the ideal time to fulfill the yearly reporting and documentation of chronic conditions, identify and reduce health risks, and create or update a patient's personalized prevention plan.

Code all chronic conditions documented by the provider at the time of the visit that required or impacted the care of the patient. This covers conditions for which the provider has assessed, counseled, or educated the patient and continuous evaluation and management are being administered by other suppliers or providers.

For further information, see Risk Adjustment's [May 2023 newsletter](#).

References

- [cms.gov/outreach-and-education/medicare-learning-network-mln/mlnmattersarticles/index](https://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/medicare-learning-network-mln/mlnmattersarticles/index)
- med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jfb/topics/documentation-requirements/awv
- [cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/preventive-services/medicare-wellness-visits.html](https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/preventive-services/medicare-wellness-visits.html)

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